

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Jin Huai, Anix Anbiah, Gary Baldwin  
Assignee: Cisco Technology, Inc.  
Title: AUTOMATIC PROPAGATION OF CIRCUIT INFORMATION  
IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK  
Application No.: 10/620,021 Filing Date: July 15, 2003  
Examiner: Mounir Moutaouakil Group Art Unit: 2616  
Docket No.: CIS0031D1US Confirmation No.: 4195

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Austin, Texas  
**November 10, 2009**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Dear Sir:

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance of the Notice of Allowance (dated August 10, 2009), the Examiner provided Reasons for Allowance of claims 13, 17 and 27.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner stated that:

“... the prior art of record, individually or in combination failed to teach automatically assigning an index number to an interface of a circuit switch, wherein the circuit switch is configured to be communicatively coupled to a router, wherein the index is automatically transmitted using the same interface and at least another interface using packet routing protocol, and the circuit switch comprises a table which comprises an entry indicating the index, an entry indicating link functionality and another entry indicating predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over the link in combination with other limitations.” (Notice of Allowance, Detailed Action, p. 2, para. 3).

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the allowance of claims 13, 17 and 27, and their respective dependent claims. However,

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Applicants respectfully note that other points of distinction exist between the cited references and the claimed invention, in addition to those stated in the foregoing passages and elsewhere during the prosecution of the instant application. To wit, claim 13, taken as an example, recites:

13. A method for propagating information in a network, the method comprising:

- automatically assigning an index number to an interface of a circuit switch, wherein
  - said circuit switch is configured to be communicatively coupled to a router;
- automatically transmitting said index number using said interface, wherein
  - said automatically transmitting said index number using said interface uses a packet routing protocol, and
  - said router is configured to communicate using said packet routing protocol; and
- automatically transmitting said index number using at least one additional interface of said circuit switch, wherein
  - said automatically transmitting said index number using said at least one additional interface uses said packet routing protocol,
  - said interface and said one additional interface are interfaces among a plurality of interfaces of said circuit switch,
  - said interface is configured to be coupled to a link,
  - said circuit switch is configured to store a table, and
  - said table comprises
    - an entry indicating said index number,
    - an entry indicating a function of said link, and
    - an entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over said link.

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As will be appreciated in light of the allowed claims, independent claims 17 and 27 recite limitations comparable to those of claim 13, among other limitations.

Moreover, even while accepting the allowed claims in their present form, Applicants do not (and need not) agree with the characterizations espoused by the Examiner in the above passages, or at other points during the prosecution of these claims (and indeed, during the prosecution of the claims in the parent case of the present application). In so stating, then, Applicants maintain their position with regard to the cited references, as presented during the prosecution of this application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance fails to accurately reproduce the language of the claims in at least this regard. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 512-439-5084, if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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